

WHAT IS CLAIMED IS:

1. A cover assembly for a vehicle having a convertible top stowage area and a trunk, the cover assembly comprising:
  - an intermediate panel disposed between the trunk and the convertible top stowage area;
  - a stowage cover;
  - a connecting apparatus attached to the stowage cover and to the intermediate panel, and configured to guide the stowage cover between a covering position, in which the stowage cover is covering the convertible top stowage area, and a stored position, in which the stowage cover is located in the trunk.
2. The cover assembly as recited in claim 1 further comprising an actuation device configured to move the stowage cover between the covering position and the stored position.
3. The cover assembly as recited in claim 2, wherein the actuation device includes at least one of a motor, a hydraulic actuator, and a pneumatic actuator.
4. The cover assembly as recited in claim 1 wherein the stowage cover includes at least first and second members, the members substantially coplanar with one another in the covering position and folded in the stored position.
5. The cover assembly as recited in claim 4 wherein the first and second members are pivotally attached to one another.
6. The cover as recited in claim 4 further comprising a folding actuator configured to fold the members when the stowage cover is moved from the covering position to the stored position.
7. The cover assembly as recited in claim 1 wherein the connecting apparatus

includes at least one goose neck hinge.

8. The cover assembly as recited in claim 1 further comprising a trunk lid moveable from a closed to an opened position in a rearward direction.

9. The cover assembly as recited in claim 8 further comprising a first latching mechanism for releasably latching the trunk lid to the intermediate panel and a second latching mechanism for releasably latching the intermediate panel to the vehicle.

10. The cover assembly as recited in claim 9, wherein one of the first and second latching mechanisms are configured to unlatch for moving the trunk lid to the open position.

11. The cover assembly as recited in claim 10, wherein the second latching mechanism is configured to unlatch the intermediate panel from the vehicle so as to enable the intermediate panel to move with the trunk lid to the opened position when moving the stowage cover between the covering position and the stored position.

12. The cover assembly as recited in claim 11 further comprising a trunk lid actuation device for moving the trunk lid from the closed position to the opened position.

13. The cover assembly as recited in claim 12 further comprising a controller for controlling the trunk lid actuation device and the first and second latching mechanisms during a movement of the stowage cover between the covering position and the stored position.

14. The cover assembly as recited in claim 13 further comprising a third latching mechanism for latching the stowage cover to the trunk lid when the stowage cover is in the stored position.

15. The cover assembly as recited in claim 1 further comprising a convertible top moveable between an up position to a down position, wherein the convertible top is located in

the convertible top stowage area in the down position.

16. The cover assembly as recited in claim 1 further comprising a vehicle hard top mounted to the vehicle when the stowage cover is in the covering position.

17. A method for covering a convertible top of a vehicle, the vehicle including a convertible top stowage area and a trunk, the method comprising:

moving the convertible top of the vehicle from an up position to a down position, wherein, in the down position the convertible top is located in the convertible top stowage area; and

guiding the stowage cover from a stored position, in which the stowage cover is located in the trunk, to a covering position, in which the stowage cover is covering the stowage area, wherein the guiding is performed using a connection apparatus that is connected to the stowage cover and an intermediate panel disposed between the trunk and the convertible top stowage area..

18. The method as recited in claim 18 wherein, before the guiding of the stowage cover, the method further comprises:

latching the intermediate panel to the trunk lid;  
unlatching the intermediate panel from the vehicle; and  
opening the trunk lid so that the intermediate panel moves away from the vehicle.

19. The method as recited in claim 17 wherein the steps are performed automatically using at least one of a motor, a hydraulic device, and a pneumatic device.